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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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01/25/2005

Hisashi Miyamori

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EXAMINER

RUTLEDGE, AMELIA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,242	Applicant(s) MIYAMORI, HISASHI	
	Examiner AMELIA RUTLEDGE	Art Unit 2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/28/08; 1/25/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to: original application, filed 01/25/2005; IDS, filed 07/28/2008; IDS, filed 01/25/2005.
2. Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1 and 12-14 are independent claims.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. **Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.**

Regarding independent claim 1, claim 1 recites the limitation, *A contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder.* The first two items of the limitation, *A contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting*, are non-statutory because they are directed to signals or carrier waves, i.e., "on the air", and are not

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tangibly embodied in computer hardware, and as such, do not fall within one of the statutory categories of invention. Therefore, claim 1 is not limited to a statutory category of invention.

Regarding dependent claims 2-11, claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1, and for similar reasons are not limited to a statutory category of invention.

Regarding independent claims 12-14, claims 12-14 contain the same limitations as claim 1, above, and are rejected along the same rationale for being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Divakaran et al. ("Divakaran"), U.S. Patent No. 7,383,504 B1, issued June 2008, application 09/518,937 filed March 2000, in view of Errico et al. ("Errico"), U.S. Patent No. 7,055,168 B1, issued May 2006, application 09/668,777 filed September 2000.

Regarding independent claim 1, Divakaran teaches *a contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to*

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broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period, because Divakaran teaches a video summarization method which determines spatio-temporal attributes of a video or multimedia content (col. 3, l. 25-col. 4, l. 26).

Divakaran teaches *characterized by comprising an event information obtaining part that obtains event information such as the characteristic motion of the player during the match from the above-mentioned contents*, because Divakaran teaches categorizing syntactic elements such as motion, color, and activity, such as a motion of a player in a sporting event (Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Divakaran suggests *an inside expressing information producing part that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the match based on the event information*, because Divakaran teaches a method of ranking the segments of a video, and then specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63). Divakaran does not explicitly teach describing an "outline" of the match, however, Errico teaches describing an outline of a video based on event information, providing multiple levels of summary (col. 5, l. 15-col. 6, l. 11).

Divakaran teaches *a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents based on the inside expressing information*, because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55).

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Divakaran teaches *a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information*, because Divakaran teaches associating syntactic attributes with the image information (col. 5, l. 28-col. 6, l. 15), and discloses outputting contents summary information by specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63).

Both Divakaran and Errico are directed to video summarization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of video summarization disclosed by Divakaran with the user preference summary disclosed by Errico, since Errico disclosed that the user description scheme information of the system was modular and portable, and could be standardized among different manufacturers or products, therefore it would have been obvious to apply Errico to Divakaran since the system was designed to be portable to different products.

Regarding dependent claim 2, while Divakaran does not explicitly teach that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that a user information receiving part that receives user information showing an interest or preference of a user is comprised and that the surface sentence information producing part produces the surface sentence information wherein the interest or preference of the user is reflected in the inside expressing information based on the user information*; Errico teaches recording user preference information so that the information presented to a user may be limited to the amount of detail desired by the user (col. 4, l. 2-47; col. 10, l. 11-col. 11, l. 15).

Both Divakaran and Errico are directed to video summarization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of video summarization disclosed by Divakaran with the user preference summary disclosed by Errico, since Errico disclosed that the user description scheme information of the system was modular and portable, and could be standardized among different manufacturers or products, therefore it would have been obvious to apply Errico to Divakaran since the system was designed to be portable to different products.

Regarding dependent claim 3, Divakaran teaches that the contents summarizing unit described *is characterized by that a text element for summary storing part that stores a text element for summary comprising a word that can express the development of the match or the motion of the player of the contents concerned is comprised and that the surface sentence information producing part produces the surface sentence information based on the text element for summary*, because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55) and saving the attribute as a text element.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Divakaran teaches that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that the event information has a hierarchical structure based on a unit that can describe the match such as a structure on a rule of the sports concerned or the motion of the player*; because Divakaran teaches categorizing syntactic elements such as motion, color, and activity, such as a motion of a player in a sporting event (Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b; col. 7, l. 15-55), and storing the event information in a directed acyclic graph (DAG) which is a hierarchical structure.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Divakaran teaches that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that the event information includes match elapsed time information showing progress of the match*; because Divakaran teaches adding temporal attributes to the video (col. 7, l. 55-67), and then ranking the video using the temporal attributes (col. 9, l. 63-col. 10, l. 48).

Regarding dependent claim 6, Divakaran teaches that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that the contents summary information output by the contents summary information outputting part is sorted based on an order of the hierarchical structure or the match elapsed time*; because Divakaran teaches adding temporal attributes to the video (col. 7, l. 55-67), and then ranking the video using the temporal attributes (col. 9, l. 63-col. 10, l. 48).

Regarding dependent claim 7, Divakaran teaches that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that the event information is so arranged to include at least either one of score information that shows a score or a record, or play event information that shows a characteristic motion of each player*; because Divakaran teaches categorizing syntactic elements such as motion, color, and activity, such as a motion of a player in a sporting event (Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Regarding dependent claim 8, Divakaran suggests that the contents summarizing unit is *characterized by that the user information receiving part is so arranged to receive a time period requested to watch by the user, a summary time period checking part that compares the time period requested to watch by the user received by the user information receiving part with a total time period of the contents*

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summary information output by the contents summary information outputting part is arranged, because Divakaran teaches that the video can be summarized by time period (col. 9, l. 63-col. 10, l. 63). Divakaran does not explicitly teach a time period requested to watch by the user, however, Errico teaches that the user may request a time period using a graphical user interface, and that the video will be summarized by that time period (col. 10, l. 31-65).

Divakaran does not explicitly teach *and if the summary time period checking part judges that the time period requested to watch by the user is smaller than the total time period of the contents summary information, the contents summary information outputting part compiles the contents summary information to be summarized within the time period requested to watch by the user based on the interest and/or preference of the user received by the user information receiving part and outputs it*; however, Errico teaches that the user may request a time period using a graphical user interface, and that the video will be summarized by that time period (col. 10, l. 31-65).

Both Divakaran and Errico are directed to video summarization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of video summarization disclosed by Divakaran with the user preference summary disclosed by Errico, since Errico disclosed that the user description scheme information of the system was modular and portable, and could be standardized among different manufacturers or products, therefore it would have been obvious to apply Errico to Divakaran since the system was designed to be portable to different products.

Regarding independent claim 13, Divakaran teaches *a contents summarizing program that activates a contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player during a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period by operating a computer, characterized by making the computer serve as an event information obtaining means that obtains event information such as the characteristic motion of the player during the match from the above-mentioned contents*; because Divakaran teaches a video summarization method which determines spatio-temporal attributes of a video or multimedia content (col. 3, l. 25-col. 4, l. 26). Divakaran teaches categorizing syntactic elements such as motion, color, and activity, such as a motion of a player in a sporting event (Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Divakaran teaches *an inside expressing information producing means that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the match based on the event information*, because Divakaran teaches a method of ranking the segments of a video, and then specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63). Divakaran does not explicitly teach describing an "outline" of the match, however, Errico teaches describing an outline of a video based on event information, providing multiple levels of summary (col. 5, l. 15-col. 6, l. 11).

Divakaran teaches *a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents*

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based on the inside expressing information, because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Divakaran teaches *a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information*, because Divakaran teaches associating syntactic attributes with the image information (col. 5, l. 28-col. 6, l. 15), and discloses outputting contents summary information by specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63).

Both Divakaran and Errico are directed to video summarization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of video summarization disclosed by Divakaran with the user preference summary disclosed by Errico, since Errico disclosed that the user description scheme information of the system was modular and portable, and could be standardized among different manufacturers or products, therefore it would have been obvious to apply Errico to Divakaran since the system was designed to be portable to different products.

4. Claims 9-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Divakaran in view of Errico, and further in view of Carlbom et al. ("Carlbom"), U.S. Patent No. 7,203,693 B2, issued April 2007.

Regarding dependent claim 9, while Divakaran in view of Errico does not explicitly teach the contents summarizing unit *characterized by that a leading degree*

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information producing part that compares score information of one player with score information of the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match based on the score information and produces leading degree information that expresses a leading degree during development of the match between the above-mentioned one player and the other player is comprised, and that the inside expressing information producing part produces the inside expressing information based on the leading degree information;

Carlbon teaches methods of real time analysis of sensor data for real time indexing of multimedia data (col. 6, l. 39-col. 8, l. 44, especially col. 7, l. 23-35), and presenting scoring information for different devices (col. 9, l. 44-col. 10, l. 16), i.e., leading degree information.

Divakaran, Errico, and Carlbon are directed to video summary based on specific parameters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the summarization method using directed acyclic graphs of Divakaran, with the summarization based on user preferences disclosed by Errico, and the summarization based on dynamic event information disclosed by Carlbon, because all summarization methods were based on parameters or attributes associated with the video, which were stored in databases, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the attributes in one databases, thereby combining known prior art elements to produce predictable results.

Regarding dependent claim 10, while Divakaran in view of Errico does not explicitly teach the contents summarizing unit *characterized by that the leading degree information is information wherein leading degree information at the arbitrary elapsed*

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time of the match is cumulated, Carlbom teaches methods of real time analysis of sensor data for real time indexing of multimedia data (col. 6, l. 39-col. 8, l. 44, especially col. 7, l. 23-35), and presenting scoring information for different devices (col. 9, l. 44-col. 10, l. 16), i.e., leading degree information.

Divakaran, Errico, and Carlbom are directed to video summary based on specific parameters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the summarization method using directed acyclic graphs of Divakaran, with the summarization based on user preferences disclosed by Errico, and the summarization based on dynamic event information disclosed by Carlbom, because all summarization methods were based on parameters or attributes associated with the video, which were stored in databases, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the attributes in one databases, thereby combining known prior art elements to produce predictable results.

Regarding dependent claim 11, Divakaran suggests the contents summarizing unit *characterized by that the surface sentence information producing part produces the surface sentence information by classifying it into surface sentence match development information in association with the development of the match expressed by the inside expressing information and surface sentence player motion information in association with the distinguished motion of the player*; because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55). Divakaran does not explicitly teach generating text in association with development

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of the match and player motion, however, Errico teaches a text summary generator and closed caption analyzer (col. 9, l. 5-33).

Divakaran, Errico, and Carlbom are directed to video summary based on specific parameters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the summarization method using directed acyclic graphs of Divakaran, with the summarization based on user preferences disclosed by Errico, and the summarization based on dynamic event information disclosed by Carlbom, because all summarization methods were based on parameters or attributes associated with the video, which were stored in databases, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the attributes in one databases, thereby combining known prior art elements to produce predictable results.

Regarding independent claim 12, Divakaran discloses *a contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player that shows development of a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period*, because Divakaran teaches a video summarization method which determines spatio-temporal attributes of a video or multimedia content (col. 3, l. 25-col. 4, l. 26).

Divakaran discloses *characterized by comprising an event information obtaining part that obtains score information showing a point or a record and play event information showing a characteristic motion of each player as being event information*

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from the above-mentioned contents, because Divakaran teaches categorizing syntactic elements such as motion, color, and activity, such as a motion of a player in a sporting event (Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b; col. 7, l. 15-55).

While Divakaran in view of Errico does not explicitly disclose *a leading degree information producing part that compares score information of one player with score information of the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match based on the score information and produces leading degree information that expresses a leading degree during the development of the match between the above-mentioned one player and the other player*, Carlborn teaches methods of real time analysis of sensor data for real time indexing of multimedia data (col. 6, l. 39-col. 8, l. 44, especially col. 7, l. 23-35), and presenting scoring information for different devices (col. 9, l. 44-col. 10, l. 16), i.e., leading degree information.

Divakaran discloses *an inside expressing information producing part that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the development of the match based on the leading degree information*, because Divakaran teaches a method of ranking the segments of a video, and then specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63). Divakaran does not explicitly teach describing an "outline" of the match, however, Errico teaches describing an outline of a video based on event information, providing multiple levels of summary (col. 5, l. 15-col. 6, l. 11).

Divakaran teaches *a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents*

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based on the inside expressing information, because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Divakaran teaches *a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information*, because Divakaran teaches associating syntactic attributes with the image information (col. 5, l. 28-col. 6, l. 15), and discloses outputting contents summary information by specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63).

Divakaran, Errico, and Carlbon are directed to video summary based on specific parameters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the summarization method using directed acyclic graphs of Divakaran, with the summarization based on user preferences disclosed by Errico, and the summarization based on dynamic event information disclosed by Carlbon, because all summarization methods were based on parameters or attributes associated with the video, which were stored in databases, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the attributes in one databases, thereby combining known prior art elements to produce predictable results.

Regarding independent claim 14, Divakaran suggests *a contents summarizing program that activates a contents summarizing unit that extracts a characteristic motion of a player that shows development of a match from contents regarding sports of a program that is on the air, of a material image prior to broadcasting, or of an image*

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recorded by a recording media such as a video tape recorder and summarizes it in a required time period so that it can be watched in the required time period by operating a computer, and characterized by making the computer serve as an event information obtaining means that obtains score information showing a point or a record and play event information showing a characteristic motion of each player as being event information from the above-mentioned contents, because Divakaran teaches a video summarization method which determines spatio-temporal attributes of a video or multimedia content (col. 3, l. 25-col. 4, l. 26). Divakaran does not explicitly teach a time period requested to watch by the user, however, Errico teaches that the user may request a time period using a graphical user interface, and that the video will be summarized by that time period (col. 10, l. 31-65).

While Divakaran in view of Errico does not explicitly disclose *a leading degree information producing means that compares score information of one player with score information of the other player at an arbitrary elapsed time of the match based on the score information and produces leading degree information that expresses a leading degree during development of the match between the above-mentioned one player and the other player*, Carlbom teaches methods of real time analysis of sensor data for real time indexing of multimedia data (col. 6, l. 39-col. 8, l. 44, especially col. 7, l. 23-35), and presenting scoring information for different devices (col. 9, l. 44-col. 10, l. 16), i.e., leading degree information.

Divakaran discloses *an inside expressing information producing part that produces inside expressing information describing an outline of the development of the*

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match based on the leading degree information, because Divakaran teaches a method of ranking the segments of a video, and then specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63). Divakaran does not explicitly teach describing an "outline" of the match, however, Errico teaches describing an outline of a video based on event information, providing multiple levels of summary (col. 5, l. 15-col. 6, l. 11).

Divakaran teaches *a surface sentence information producing part that produces surface sentence information expressed by a sentence that summarizes the contents based on the inside expressing information*, because Divakaran teaches summarizing an event by attributes of the commentary of the announcer (Fig. 3c, item 321; col. 7, l. 15-55).

Divakaran teaches *a contents summary information outputting part that outputs contents summary information wherein the surface sentence information is associated with image information corresponding to the event information*, because Divakaran teaches associating syntactic attributes with the image information (col. 5, l. 28-col. 6, l. 15), and discloses outputting contents summary information by specifying a particular rank based traversal in order to summarize a video (col. 9, l. 50-col. 10, l. 63).

Divakaran, Errico, and Carlbom are directed to video summary based on specific parameters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the summarization method using directed acyclic graphs of Divakaran, with the summarization based on user preferences disclosed by Errico, and the summarization based on dynamic event information disclosed by Carlbom, because

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all summarization methods were based on parameters or attributes associated with the video, which were stored in databases, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the attributes in one databases, thereby combining known prior art elements to produce predictable results.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Li et al.	U.S. Patent No. 7,312,812	issued	December 2007
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Foote et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,751,354 B2	issued	June 2004
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMELIA RUTLEDGE whose telephone number is (571)272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amelia Rutledge/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176